

LE ROY PENNYSAVER - AUGUST 22, 2010
4:10 Fastest Time

by Lynne Belluscio

Well, it's horse show time again, and we just got back from the Walnut Hill Horse Show. This year was the 39th annual show, which is held on West Bloomfield Road, just south of Pittsford.

divisions. Laura drove the four events with the 2-wheeled road cart. John drove the four events with the 4-wheeled runabout and the three events with the Jell-O wagon. And just because it's fun,

to trot and could not cantor or gallop, but some competitors decided it was too dangerous, and so the cross country was based on "perfect time". The course designer takes the distance of

the route, including all the turns and water hazards, and then figures out how long it would take a horse trotting at 7-8 miles per hour to complete the course. Horses have to trot and cannot walk.

Our problem is that Beaman has such a long stride that he

time and indeed there were some very fast horses. I remember a few years back when one competitor only came for the cross country and he drove a standard bred horse, right from the race track. Problem was, that the horse didn't like to turn and go through the water hazards! Anyway, all five competitors had gone through the course and Beaman and Laura were the last to go. They had to beat 4 minutes 40 seconds which they did handily with a 4:10.

So that blue ribbon was added to the blue ribbon for reinsmanship and a red second place ribbon for turnout and Beaman won another championship. He and John also won their turnout class and won enough points to receive the reserve championship in the runabout class.

Of the three trade classes, the Jell-O wagon won the working class and placed in the other classes, but not high enough for a championship - - - all pretty remarkable considering that JMF Found One Beaman (that's his official name) turned 20 this spring. So this week, not much about LeRoy history, but next week you can read all about the \$4,000 grant the Historical Society is receiving to have two paintings restored.

You've probably seen the long tents near the Thruway. I leave the horse driving up to my daughter and John Skivington. My job is to keep the brass polished and the carriages clean. This year I kept track of five-year-old Evan who spent two days at the show, eating grilled cheese sandwiches and drinking root beer - even for breakfast.

We were stalled on the other side of the Waller family from Stockbridge, Massachusetts, who brought 12 horses to the show and several vehicles including a English road coach. We had three horse drawn vehicles - -the Jell-O wagon, a four-wheeled runabout and a two wheeled road cart. We also had two campers, two trucks, a golf cart, a huge horse trailer and a short flat-bed trailer (for the Jell-O wagon).

We started moving stuff in on Monday, brought over more stuff and our horse on Tuesday and started the show on Wednesday in some of the most oppressive heat that I can remember. Luckily, Evan and I could stand in the shade most of the time, but Laura, John and Beaman (the horse) worked in the hot steamy weather.

Beaman was entered into three

John drove with his dog, Higbee in another class. John also blew all the competition away in the "scurry" class, which includes 10 sets of cones and the driver chooses the fastest route.

John was the last to go and came in with a perfect round and the fastest time. At one time, the cross country course was based on the fastest time. Horses had

covers so much ground in a normal trotting gait. So luckily, the 2-wheeled road cart competitors can choose fastest time or perfect time and of course Laura chooses fastest time. The perfect time this year was 5 minutes and 16 seconds and all but six of the competitors chose to try perfect time.

There were six in the fastest

